

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



200321

000008

May 10, 1993

Turpin Ballard
U.S.EPA
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: Master Metals Health Consultation

There are three areas of the Master Metals site in Cleveland that may pose a risk to area citizens, the air emissions, the disposal of fill in at least three residential areas, and workers at the Master Metals facility. The Ohio Department of Health staff made a site visit with Joe Fredle from the U.S.EPA on April 2, 1993.

The Master Metals facility formerly manufactured lead alloys and lead products such as battery anodes. There has been a historical problem with air emissions at the facility. The air stacks have no emission controls. There are visible waste piles on site. Waste materials were also used as fill at three area homes.

Air Emissions-

ODH evaluated the air monitoring data taken in July 1992, December and January 1992, and January 1993. Daily, monthly, and quarterly samples exceeded the U.S.EPA air standard for lead. Data from six of eight air monitoring stations exceeded the standard. Daily samples taken in January 1992 at the Meander Tire facility also exceeded the standard. According to an April 1993 memorandum from the U.S.EPA, a downwind air monitoring station south of the site was clean.

Air emissions, dust emissions, off-site and on-site disposal of lead contaminated soil from the Master Metals site poses a risk to nearby residents. There is a residential apartment complex within 1500 feet northwest of the site. There are approximately 500 people living in this complex. There is also a playground within 1500 feet northeast of the site, and a business within 500 meters of the site. LTV steel is just south of the site.

Disposal of Waste-

Fill material contaminated with lead was placed in at least three residential areas. Soil samples from one of the yards contained lead at 2775 parts per million (ppm), that is probably highly bioavailable. Reportedly, there are two children who regularly visit this home and have been exposed to lead. These two children have had blood lead levels taken, but we are waiting for these results. They will be evaluated when we obtain these data.

In addition, one of these residents has reportedly salvaged 600 pounds of lead from the fill material. We do not have confirmation of this nor do we have environmental monitoring data from the other two residential areas.

The disposal or placement of the contaminated fill in the residential areas poses a risk to the residents or other people in contact with this fill material. The residents living in one of the properties are not residing in the house. Two removals have occurred, but we do not have the details of these removals.

Risk to Workers at the Master Metals facility-

Workers at the facility and their families are also at risk of exposure to lead. The workers have been monitored for blood lead levels, but to date, we have not received this information. The children and wives of these workers are also at risk if workers clothing contains lead dust.

Recommendations

Sample the other two residents where it is known that materials from the facility was used as fill.

Sample the soil at the Valley View Apartments northwest of the site and at the playground northeast of the site.

Determine if waste materials have been used as fill in other residential areas.

ODH will evaluate blood lead levels in the children who have been tested for blood lead.

Evaluate all the of air emissions data.

Evaluate the risk to workers and their families from the possible exposure to lead.

Determine if additional blood samples are needed to determine exposure levels of workers.

Regards,

Tracy Shelley
Tracy Shelley
Chief, Health Assessment Branch
Ohio Department of Health
246 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43266

cc: Richard Kauffman/ATSDR
Louise Fabinski/ATSDR
Paul Dolensky/OEPA/NEDO
Jim Burnosky/Cleveland Health Dept.